

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in this application, with claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 being independent. By this amendment, claims 1, 6 and 20 have been amended merely to correct minor informalities.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating in an Advisory Action dated June 1, 2007, that it appears that the at least proposed independent claim 1 distinguishes over the prior art. The Examiner further indicated that the proposed amendments would not be entered because they present additional claims without cancelling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

Accordingly, along with the submission of this Preliminary Amendment is a Request for Continued Examination. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment filed on May 21, 2007, as well as the amendments presented herein.

Applicant submits that the claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth in the response section in the Amendment filed May 21, 2007. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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